United Nations A/56/126

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 July 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Item 111 (d) of the preliminary list*
Environment and sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the General Assembly, pursuant to its request in resolution 55/201 of 20 December 2000, the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

* A/56/50.

01-43715 (E) 230701

Report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 23 of its resolution 55/201 of 8 February 2001, the General Assembly invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to it on the ongoing work regarding the Convention.

2. Since the last report of the Executive Secretary to the General Assembly (A/55/211), the principal activities have been the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Workshop on the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3. Details regarding these activities are provided in chapter II. Chapter III provides further details about cooperation between the Convention and the United Nations bodies.

4. There have also been various technical meetings, such as: two meetings of the ad hoc technical experts group on forests; a liaison group meeting on coral reefs; a liaison group meeting on alien invasive species; a technical experts meeting on the biosafety clearing house; and two meetings of the Consultative Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity Education and Public Awareness. A full list of these meetings is provided in annex I.

5. The reports of the above-mentioned meetings, together with lists of participants and pre-session documentation, are available from the secretariat of the Convention at its web site, http://www.biodiv.org.

6. As of 2 July 2001 there are 180 Parties to the Convention, 100 Parties have signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and five have ratified it.

7. There are some 19 meetings and/or workshops scheduled from 1 July 2001 in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held from 8 to 26 April 2002 in the Netherlands. A list of these meetings and workshops is contained in annex II.

II. Principal meetings of the Convention

A. Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

8. The sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice was held from 12 to 16 March 2001 in Montreal. Over 560 participants, representing 143 countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, attended the meeting. The seventh meeting is scheduled for 12 to 16 November 2001 in Montreal.

9. At that meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice adopted the following recommendations:

VI/1. Ad hoc technical expert groups;

VI/2. Marine and coastal biological diversity: progress report on the implementation of the programme of work, including the integration of coral reefs;

VI/3. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;

VI/4. Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;

VI/5. Scientific assessments: development of methodologies and identification of pilot studies;

VI/6. The Global Taxonomy Initiative: programme of work;

VI/7. Biological diversity and climate change, including cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

VI/8. Migratory species and cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

VI/9. Global Biodiversity Outlook.

10. The report of the meeting is contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/6/3.

11. The main theme of the meeting was alien species, which after habitat destruction is the most significant threat to biodiversity. In recommendation VI/4, the Subsidiary Body further developed the existing guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. There are 15 guiding principles in all, addressing general approaches, prevention, introduction of species and mitigation of impacts. The Subsidiary Body urged Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to promote and implement the guiding principles. The Subsidiary Body also came to the conclusion that certain gaps and inconsistencies remained in the international regulatory framework from the perspective of the threats of invasive alien species to biological diversity. With a view to addressing these gaps and inconsistencies, the Subsidiary Body recommended that relevant Governments and organizations review and revise the relevant standards and agreements and invited such organizations to report on any such initiatives.

12. Another important outcome of the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body was recommendation VI/7 on biological diversity and climate change, including cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Subsidiary Body was requested by the Conference of the Parties to consider the impact of climatic change on forest biological diversity and to prepare scientific advice in order to integrate biodiversity considerations in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. To that end, the Subsidiary Body agreed to undertake a pilot assessment to prepare scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, and, for that purpose, established an ad hoc technical expert group. This would be part of a wider assessment of the inter-linkages between biological diversity and climate change. The Subsidiary Body invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to contribute to the pilot assessment by preparing a technical paper and by identifying experts. IPCC, at its seventeenth session, agreed to that request. The Subsidiary Body also invited the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant organizations to contribute. In June 2001, the Executive Secretary invited Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to nominate experts to participate in the ad hoc technical expert group. The Group is expected to report to the Subsidiary Body at its eighth meeting in 2002. It is envisaged that the Group will meet once in 2001 and once in 2002.

13. The Subsidiary Body also considered coral bleaching. It endorsed the integration of coral reefs and to that end developed a detailed addition to the programme of work of marine and coastal biological diversity. The coral reef work programme will concentrate on two issues considered to be the major causes of coral reef mortality worldwide: coral bleaching and the physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs. The Subsidiary Body also acknowledged the urgent need to take prompt action to address the impact of climate change on those ecosystems, as a potential major cause of their loss of biodiversity, in particular regarding coral bleaching and its associated socio-economic consequences.

14. In recommendation VI/6, the Subsidiary Body considered the Global Taxonomy Initiative. By that recommendation, the Subsidiary Body requested the Conference of the Parties: to endorse the draft work programme; to urge Governments and international and regional organizations to promote and carry out the work programme; to encourage the involvement of global, regional and subregional networks and partnerships in its implementation; and to examine the financial need for activities and capacity-building. The work programme's operational objectives are: to assess taxonomic needs and capacities; to provide focus in building and maintaining infrastructure for obtaining biological specimens; to facilitate infrastructure for access to taxonomic information; and to generate information needed for decision-making regarding the Convention's thematic work programmes and cross-cutting issues.

B. First meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

15. In its decision EM-I/3, the Conference of the Parties established an open-ended ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) to undertake the preparations necessary for the first meeting of the Parties. At its fifth ordinary meeting, the Conference of the Parties endorsed a work plan for ICCP over two

meetings, which is contained in the annex to decision V/1. The first meeting of ICCP took place from 11 to 15 December 2000 in Montpellier, France. Nearly 600 participants from 82 Governments and 133 intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies attended the meeting. (The second meeting of ICCP is scheduled for 1 to 5 October 2001 at the seat of the secretariat in Montreal, Canada.)

16. At the first meeting, ICCP adopted recommendations on information sharing and the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH); capacity-building; decision-making procedures under Article 10.7; handling, packaging and identification; and compliance.

17. The most significant outcome of the first meeting of ICCP was its recommendations on the establishment of the pilot phase of BCH. ICCP defined the objectives of the pilot phase as: firstly, to build on the experience and provide feedback for the development of a functional and accessible Internet-based mechanism, and to identify alternatives to the electronic system; and, secondly, to identify and address the capacity needs of countries with respect to the BCH.

18. ICCP also highlighted the following characteristics for the pilot phase: (a) it must be amenable to rapid development; (b) it must be user-friendly, searchable and understandable; (c) it must provide an efficient mechanism for implementation of the requirements of the Protocol; (d) it must incorporate on a priority basis information to facilitate decision-making, information on paragraph 1 of Article 11 of the Protocol, and access to the roster of experts on biosafety following a final decision on the operation of the roster. ICCP additionally identified the following elements as being required to implement the pilot phase: (a) a central portal; (b) central database(s); (c) linkage of the central portal to national, regional and international databases/nodes; and (d) common formats for information, which can incorporate linked information through appropriate search engines.

19. In accordance with the recommendation of ICCP, the Executive Secretary convened a liaison group meeting of technical experts on BCH in Montreal on 19 and 20 March 2001 to provide advice on technical issues associated with the implementation of the pilot phase of the BCH. The Bureau of ICCP endorsed the recommendations made by the liaison group meeting and mandated the secretariat to proceed with the development of the pilot phase along those recommendations. Accordingly, the secretariat launched the pilot phase of BCH on 5 April 2001 as a test web site at the following address: http://bch.biodiv.org.

20. Implementation of the pilot phase is continuing, particularly the development of the central portal, with a view to making it more comprehensive, user-friendly, understandable and searchable. A BCH tool-kit is also being developed as an informative and instructional tool to assist interested users in the use of the pilot phase of BCH. Non-electronic mechanisms for information sharing under BCH will also be developed, and their implementation will be based on countries' demands and needs.

21. Despite the promising start to implementing the Protocol, there remain many important challenges.

22. The most important challenge in this regard is developing the requisite capacities of relevant stakeholders. The basic purpose of the procedures and mechanisms of the Protocol is to enable informed decision-making. The effectiveness of such a procedure is dependent upon generating pertinent information, ensuring that decision makers are provided with it in a timely fashion and have the capacity to use this information. A fundamental capacity to the effective implementation of the Protocol will therefore be biotechnology capacity. Without the ability to properly understand the technology, it will be impossible to properly assess and manage any risks that arise from the application of biotechnology. Owing to the nature of the technology, developing capacities where they are needed will require a renewed and reinvigorated commitment to the transfer of technology. This will mean transfers from developed Parties to developing Parties. Most importantly, transfers from the private sector will be crucial. All Governments in the negotiations repeatedly acknowledged that that would be the key to the success of the Protocol. The first meeting of ICCP considered the matter in a preliminary fashion based on a compilation of activities of donors and other relevant organizations. More focused and concrete recommendations are expected from the second meeting.

23. Another important challenge for implementing the Protocol is its relationship with the existing international regime dealing with the products of biotechnology. Biosafety is such a broad issue covering

such a wide range of activities that the scope of the Protocol overlaps with many existing international processes. For instance, the Codex Alimentarius Committee (CAC), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) are all considering measures to regulate the use of biotechnology in one form or another. Consequently, if the Protocol is to be effective, it will need to work with, build upon and cooperate with all these relevant processes.

24. The Protocol has an important contribution to make to this international regime in that it clarifies the use of the precautionary approach with respect to living modified organisms. It does this in a number of important ways, which include the following:

(a) Elaborating the necessary steps for a valid risk assessment (that is, annex III);

(b) Distinguishing and elaborating the concept of risk management (that is, Articles 15 and 16);

(c) Outlining a specific process for review of decisions in the light of new evidence (that is, Article 12).

25. The Protocol therefore adds clarity to a contentious and important issue. Realizing this contribution will, however, be a complex and detailed task. It will also require a new level of cooperation and understanding between the different regimes dealing with living modified organisms.

C. Second meeting of the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing

26. The Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing is a regionally balanced group of experts, established by the Conference of the Parties to develop a common understanding of basic concepts related to access and benefit-sharing and to explore options for access and benefit-sharing on mutually agreed terms. The Panel of Experts was formed of government-nominated experts from the public and private sectors, as well as representatives from local and indigenous communities. It first met in Costa Rica in October 1999 and reached broad conclusions on: prior informed consent, mutually agreed terms, information needs and capacity-building. The Panel was not able, however, to reach conclusions about the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

27. At its fifth meeting, in May 2000, the Conference of the Parties decided to reconvene the Panel of Experts. The second meeting of the Panel of Experts was held in Montreal from 19 to 22 March 2001 to conduct further work on outstanding issues from the first meeting, and to assess user and provider experience on access and benefit-sharing and identify approaches for the involvement of stakeholders in access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

28. With a view to facilitating the work of the Working Group, the Conference of the Parties invited the Panel of Experts to identify: (a) the types of guidelines and other approaches that would be best suited to achieve the objectives of the Convention; and (b) elements for international guidelines and other approaches, taking into account the conclusions of the first meeting of the Panel.

29. The conclusions of the second meeting of the Panel of Experts are contained in document UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/1/2.

30. The Panel of Experts recognized that guidelines should be seen as part of a package of measures or approaches. Other complementary approaches include codes of conduct, indicators and model agreements. In addition, information exchange mechanisms, such as the clearing house mechanism, can make available existing legislative texts and policy decisions and other relevant information.

31. In addition, it was felt that capacity-building should be the essence of the work on access and benefit-sharing. In particular, the Panel felt that the focus of that work should be to strengthen the ability of relevant stakeholders in a number of areas, including: the development of adequate legislation, administrative and policy measures; the protection of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, and scientific and technical areas, such as technology transfer to enable countries to conserve and undertake sustainable use of their own biological resources. The Panel stressed that raising awareness of the importance of capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing was required at all levels, from government to local communities. The Panel suggested that the Working Group should consider the need to

draw up action plans for capacity-building on access and benefit-sharing with, inter alia, specific indicators, identified milestones, time frames, roles of donors, drivers.

32. The conclusions of the Panel will be considered by the Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, also established by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

33. The Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing will hold its first meeting in October 2001, in Bonn, Germany. The mandate of the Working Group is to develop "guidelines and other approaches" for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. These international guidelines and other approaches, such as model agreements, are meant to assist Parties and stakeholders in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements. They should serve as inputs when developing and drafting legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing.

D. Workshop on the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity

34. The Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting decided to initiate a process to develop a Strategic Plan for the Convention in time for its sixth meeting. In his note of 13 March 2001 entitled "Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity", the Executive Secretary provided a detailed outline of the overall process for developing the Strategic Plan.

35. An important step in that process was the convening of meeting of experts to consider the note of the Executive Secretary and provide draft elements of a strategic plan for the open-ended meeting on the plan in November 2001 and, ultimately, the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting in April 2002. At the kind invitation of the Government of the Seychelles, such a workshop was convened from 28 to 30 May 2001.

36. The meeting considered the note by the Executive Secretary, provided guidance on follow-up steps and the overall process to develop a strategic plan between then and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and agreed upon a structure and draft elements of a plan.

37. Based on those conclusions and the note of the Executive Secretary of 13 March 2001, the Executive Secretary developed draft elements of the plan, which are contained in document UNEP/CBD/MSP/2.

III. Cooperation with the General Assembly and other relevant institutions

38. The relationship between the Convention and the General Assembly and its related bodies has been of central importance to the work of the Convention process during the relevant period. Important aspects of this relationship include: cooperation with the Rio Conventions; forest biological diversity; sustainable tourism; financial support for the implementation of the Convention; education and public awareness; and exploring synergies with respect to scientific assessments of the ecological linkages between the Rio conventions. The focus of the relationship between the Convention and the General Assembly has, however, been the forthcoming 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the contribution that the Convention can make to that process.

39. As has been noted previously, the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting recognized the importance of the forthcoming 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and adopted decision V/27 addressing the contribution of the Convention to that review process. In its decision, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the invitation of the General Assembly to the secretariat of the Convention to report on how its activities were contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session. It also welcomed the invitation of the Commission on Sustainable Development extended to secretariats of conventions related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to support preparatory activities of the 10-year review, and to review and assess their respective programmes of work since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It requested the Executive Secretary to support such preparatory

activities and, in particular, to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on progress made in the implementation of the Convention and encouraged Parties, Governments and countries to highlight and emphasize biological diversity considerations in their contributions to the 10-year review.

40. Consequently, the secretariat has continued to participate in the various mechanisms for assisting the Secretary-General in preparing for the review.

41. The focus of this work has been the responses to the invitations of the General Assembly to provide a report on the experience of the Convention and the lessons learned and provide ideas and proposals for furthering the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (see paragraph 11 (e) of resolution 54/218 of 22 December 1999, paragraph 10 of resolution 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and paragraph 11 of resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000). The central theme of the present report is that the key challenge facing the General Assembly at the Summit is how to further implement sustainable development. Biological diversity underpins society in many important ways. Food security, climatic stability, freshwater security and the health needs of humans all directly depend upon maintaining and using the world's biological diversity. Manifestly sustainable development cannot be achieved without the sustainable use of biological diversity. The Convention, which was negotiated contemporaneously with Agenda 21, has as a central purpose the promotion of sustainable development through the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The Convention is therefore an important instrument for the implementation of Agenda 21 and in turn has an important contribution to make to the efforts of the General Assembly to implement sustainable development. The report highlights the experiences gained to date and the lessons learned by the Convention in its efforts to achieve its aims and goals and in turn those of Agenda 21 over the past 10 years. On the basis of that experience the report offers some options and ideas that would further the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as the Convention.

42. Significant progress has also been made in cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process since the last report. As mentioned above, the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting noted that closer collaboration with the Framework Convention, including its Kyoto Protocol, was desirable with respect to a number of issues. To that end, the Conference requested its President, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Parties and the Executive Secretary to cooperate with relevant bodies of the Framework, including its Kyoto Protocol, with particular emphasis on the issues of dry and sub-humid lands, forest biological diversity, coral reefs and incentive measures. The relevant decisions were formally communicated to the Framework Convention and also discussed in a note prepared by the Executive Secretary and submitted to the Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention at its sixth session and its Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at the second part of its thirteenth session, held in The Hague from 13 to 24 November 2000. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice took note with appreciation of the information contained in a discussion note prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It also took note of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting relating to forest biodiversity and marine and coastal biodiversity, particularly coral reefs, and their links to the Framework Convention. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice agreed to consider the matter in more detail at its fourteenth session. It invited Parties to submit their views on the issues identified in the discussion note prepared by the Executive Secretary of the Convention to the secretariat of the Framework Convention.

43. On the advice of the secretariat of the Framework Convention the Executive Secretary has also held discussions with the IPCC Chair on these matters and, in particular, on the participation of IPCC in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the impacts of climate change on biological diversity and in the preparation of scientific advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

44. In line with Conference of the Parties decision V/4 and the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Executive Secretary has begun the task of assembling information relating to the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. This includes information prepared by the IPCC, notably its third assessment review and its special report on land use, land use change and forestry, and by other organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental.

45. With respect to forests, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties, Governments and organizations to advance the implementation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity (previously described in the annex to document A/53/451). In its decision V/4, the Conference of the Parties established a technical expert group to, inter alia, identify options and suggest priority actions to: mitigate the direct and underlying causes of forest biodiversity loss, restore degraded forests and identify state-of-the-art technologies with a view to assisting the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider these issues. This group has now met twice and its report will provide the basis for the Subsidiary Body's consideration of the issue at its next meeting, in November 2001. The Subsidiary Body has also been requested to develop advice on human-induced uncontrolled forest fires and to prepare sustainable practices for the harvesting of non-timber forest resources. The secretariat has continued its close collaboration with the United Nations process on forests, participating in the first meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The work of the technical expert group, the Subsidiary Body and the Conference of the Parties will provide an important contribution to this collaboration.

Annex I

Meetings organized by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

11-13 September 2000 Montreal, Canada	Meeting of Technical Experts on the Biosafety Clearing House
7 September 2000 Cape Town, South Africa	Liaison Group Meeting on Alien Invasive Species
24-29 October 2000 Bali, Indonesia	Liaison Group on Coral Reefs
19-21 November 2000 Bergen, Norway	Second CBD/UNESCO Consultative Working Group of Experts on Biological Diversity Education and Public Awareness
23 November 2000 Montreal, Canada	Global Taxonomy Initiative Coordination Mechanism
7 November-1 December 2000 Montreal, Canada	Technical Expert Group on Forests
11-15 December 2000 Montpellier, France	First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-1)
24-26 January 2001 Rome, Italy	Liaison Group on Agricultural Biodiversity
25-26 January 2001 Geneva, Switzerland	Global Biodiversity Outlook Advisory Group
6-9 February 2001 San José, Costa Rica	Central American Workshop and Taxonomic Needs Assessment on the Global Taxonomy Initiative
26-28 February 2001 Nairobi, Kenya	Regional Meeting on Biosafety Clearing House and the Clearing House Mechanism in Africa
7 February-1 March 2001 Cape Town, South Africa	Global Taxonomy Initiative Regional Meeting in Africa
4 March 2001 Montreal, Canada	Meeting with SBSTTA Focal Points, Clearing House Mechanism Focal Points, and Informal Advisory Committee of the Clearing House Mechanism
11 March 2001 Montreal, Canada	Informal Consultation on the proposed Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

11 March 2001 Montreal, Canada	Informal Advisory Committee Meeting of the Clearing House Mechanism
12-16 March 2001 Montreal, Canada	Sixth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-6)
19-20 March 2001 Montreal, Canada	Liaison Group Meeting of Technical Experts on the Biosafety Clearing House
19-22 March 2001 Montreal, Canada	Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing
23-27 April 2001 Edinburgh, United Kingdom	Technical Experts Group on Forests
28-30 May 2001 Mahé, Seychelles	Workshop on the Strategic Plan
4-7 June 2001 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	Workshop on Biological Diversity and Tourism
13-15 June 2001 Paris, France	Expert Meeting on Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms
18-20 June 2001 Paris, France	Workshop on Liability and Redress under the Convention

Annex II

Planned meetings/workshops in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties organized by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

11-13 July 2001 Havana, Cuba	Open-ended Meeting of Experts on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Biosafety Protocol
14 July 2001 Havana, Cuba	International Workshop on Financial Support for National Biosafety Frameworks (Co-organized with UNEP)
16-17 July 2001 Havana, Cuba	Workshop on Financing for Biodiversity (Co-organized with the Global Environment Fund)
September 2001 Location to be determined	Workshop on Incentive Measures
Beginning September 2001 Montreal, Canada	Technical Experts Review Meeting on the Pilot Phase of the Biosafety Clearing House
13-15 September 2001 Bilbao, Spain	Third Meeting of the CBD/UNESCO Consultative Working Group of Experts on Biodiversity Education and Public Awareness
17-21 September 2001 Maputo, Mozambique	African Regional Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity
26-28 September 2001 Nairobi, Kenya	Open-Ended Meeting of Experts on Compliance
1-5 October 2001 Nairobi, Kenya	Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-2)
22-26 October 2001 Warkworth, New Zealand	Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas
22-26 October 2001 Bonn, Germany	Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing
5-9 November 2001 Location to be determined	Technical Expert Group on Mariculture
12-16 November 2001 Montreal, Canada	Seventh Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-7)
19-21 November 2001 Montreal, Canada	Open-ended inter-sessional meeting on the Strategic Plan, national reports and the implementation of the Convention

January 2002 Location to be determined	Asian Regional Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity
February or March 2002 Location to be determined	Latin American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity
February-March 2002 Location to be determined	Regional Preparatory Meetings for the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6)
4-8 February 2002 Montreal, Canada	Meeting of the Ad hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j)
11-12 February 2002 Montreal, Canada	Technical Expert Group on Dryland Biodiversity
8-26 April 2002 The Hague, Netherlands	Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6)
8-26 April 2002 The Hague, Netherlands	First Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (MOP1)